

# Milwaukee Health Care Partnership

## VIOLENCE INITIATIVES

In 2025, homicide and nonfatal shooting trends continued to improve. Although there was a slight 8% increase in homicides, nonfatal shootings were down 19% and the total absolute number of homicides and nonfatal shootings are down 15%, with 114 less in 2025 compared to 2024.

Since 2016, the Milwaukee Health Care Partnership (MHCP) triannual Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) has elevated violence as a significant issue in Milwaukee County. Findings from the most recent 2024 CHNA show violence as the top health issue according to primary data. 53% of all community survey respondents named gun violence and community violence as a top health issue.

Violence, in all its forms, does not discriminate. It affects people of all ages, races, genders, and socio-economic groups - inflicting schools, workplaces, recreational, and neighborhood settings. However, it does not impact all groups equally. Firearm and assaultive violence disproportionately affects communities of color and is concentrated in certain neighborhoods. Nearly 90% of all victims are Black/African American, with youth Black/African American rates being between 95%-100%.

Health care providers can play an important role in identifying, treating, and preventing violence for patients and their families. MHCP provider members have come together with the City of Milwaukee Office of Wellness and Safety, Milwaukee County, the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW) Comprehensive Injury Center, and other sectors to support the advancement of the Milwaukee Blueprint for Peace.

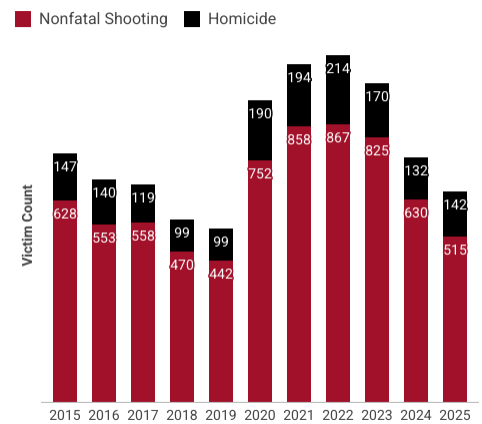
Collectively, MHCP members are working on four activities that address Blueprint for Peace goals:

- Enhance **forensic nursing assessment and supportive services** to improve treatment, advocacy, recovery, and prevent subsequent interpersonal violence incidents
- Improve and expand **hospital-based violence intervention programs and services** to support survivors of firearm violence and reduce retaliation and recidivism
- Share learning and advance collective strategies to **address and reduce violence in health care workplace settings** to protect patients and associates.

### MILWAUKEE BLUEPRINT FOR PEACE

The **Milwaukee Blueprint for Peace** was established in 2016 and provides a cross-sector road map for addressing all forms of interpersonal and structural violence across the community including firearms, homicides, domestic and intimate partner violence, sexual violence, and human trafficking.

### Homicide and Nonfatal Shooting Victim Frequency, Milwaukee County, 2015-2025



**Source:** Violence Response Public Health and Safety Team (VR-PHAST) 2025 Incident Report, Medical College of Wisconsin, Institute for Health and Equity, Milwaukee Police Department, Nonfatal Shooting and Homicide data, accessed April 2025.

# MHCP VIOLENCE IN HEALTH CARE FOCUS AREAS

## Interpersonal Violence Prevention

### Shared Healing Advocate Initiative

Through collaboration with the Forensic Nurse Examiner Network (FNEN), the MHCP is working to support the expansion of interpersonal violence services across health systems and Federally Qualified Health Centers. The FNEN is comprised of health care and nurse leaders that are working to track and report interpersonal violence data, expand access to forensic nursing advocacy services in health care settings, improve the standard of practice, and inform and influence policy.

To increase access to support and advocacy services for people experiencing sexual and domestic violence, the FNEN developed and launched the **Shared Healing Advocate Initiative** in 2022 with funding from the MHCP Shared Community Investment Fund, which funds one shared and pooled advocate who serves patient survivors across all four health systems.

## Hospital-based Violence Intervention Programs

### 414LIFE and Project Ujima

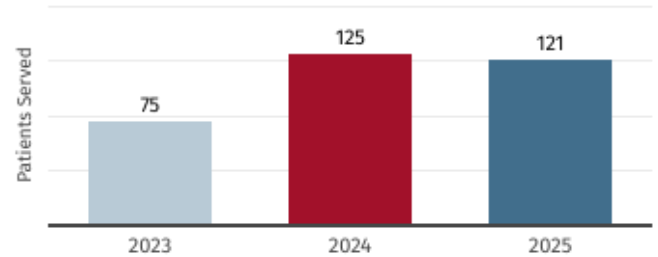
MHCP members are working to improve the coordination and expansion of existing hospital/health care-based violence intervention services. This includes, 414LIFE for youth and adults in the City of Milwaukee (Froedtert and Medical College of Wisconsin Comprehensive Injury Center) and Project Ujima for children and families with victims under age 18 in Milwaukee County (Children's Wisconsin).

In 2025, the 414LIFE and Project Ujima programs, in addition to other community violence interruption programs have increased collaboration with public sector and community based partners. A new level of collaboration is fostering an improved intervention and prevention network across the city of Milwaukee.

## Target Populations

- Victims and families of firearm violence (homicides and non-fatal shootings)
- Victims and families of assaultive violence (intentional interpersonal violence such as stabbings, domestic and intimate partner violence, physical assault, and strangulation)
- Children and youth under age 18 in Milwaukee County (Project Ujima)
- Residents age 15-35 in City of Milwaukee (414LIFE)
- Populations that are at highest risk for violence recidivism

## MHCP FNE Shared Healing Advocate Unique Patients, 2023-2025



**Total: 321 Unique Patients**

### 2025 Highlight

MHCP, in partnership with Children's Wisconsin, City of Milwaukee, Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee County DHHS, Greater Milwaukee Urban League, and Milwaukee Public Schools, launched a series of convenings concerning youth gun violence. The purpose of the initial convening was to bring cross-sector leadership together to build knowledge and plan for action around youth firearm violence. The committed engagement of partners focused on action and prevention that will carry through 2026 and beyond. Critically, youth representation and input is a focus of the action planning and prevention efforts.

## Health Equity

Low-income and people of color are disproportionately affected by individual, community, and structural violence in Milwaukee. Although it varies across violence types, the majority of victims are Black/African American men and women under the age of 35. The work across violence programs seeks to address health equity and reduce health disparities.